

REMARKS:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 30, 2005. The time period for responding to the outstanding Office Action is extended to October 31, 2005 by the accompanying petition for extension of time. Pursuant to this amendment, claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully submitted.

The Office Action objects to informalities in claims 1, 7 and 15. Applicant amends these claims to address the objections.

The outstanding Office Action rejects the claims over different combinations of references, with the primary reference in each combination being U.S. Patent No. 6,314,469 to Tan, et al. Applicant respectfully submits that the Tan patent does not describe or suggest a system for changing information about a domain name. Rather, the Tan patent is directed to a translator that allows URLs written in a non-ASCII, non-Unicode form (such as Chinese) to be translated into a form that allows the URLs to be understood and interpreted by the standard domain name system. The Tan patent system does not generate a command message that causes a domain manager to change domain name information. The other cited art does not address these deficiencies of the Tan patent and applicant consequently submits that the claims of the present application distinguish over the art of record and are in condition for allowance.

The present application describes a system that facilitates the distributed management of domain names. The described system includes a front-end domain manager connected to a back-end domain manager over a communication link. Preferably the front-end is coupled to a user interface that allows the user to identify the domain name information to be changed and the back-end domain manager is directly connected to an authoritative name server to implement the

change without delay or use of intermediary third parties. The front end manager collects information identifying what aspect of domain name information is to be changed and what the new information is to be. The front-end domain manager generates a text message that is sent over the communication link to the back-end domain manager to effect the desired change in the domain name information.

Preferred implementations of the domain manager use a simple text message to communicate the domain name information message from the front-end domain manager to the back-end domain manager. This simple command protocol uses reduced bandwidth and makes it easier to provide domain name management options through different types of environments.

Aspects of the text based command preferred in implementations of the present invention are reflected, for example, in claim 1, which recites, "the text string command message comprising a text command specifying an information change function to be performed by the back-end domain manager and further comprising change information to be used by the back-end domain manager in performing the information change function." Similarly, claim 6 recites, "the command message identifying an information change function and comprising the domain name change information." Finally, independent claim 15 recites, "the command message identifying an information change function and comprising the domain name change information." All of the pending claims indicate the use of a text command string identifying an information change function and domain name change information used by the information change function.

The primary reference, the Tan patent, describes a modification to the domain name system that allows domain names or URLs to entered in non-standard form. For example, the Tan patent system provides an international DNS or i-DNS server 16 in addition to the conventional DNS server 18, where the i-DNS

server 16 translates non-ASCII, non-Unicode URLs into a format that can be understood by the conventional DNS server 18. Information about the domain name is not changed, as the domain name stays the same in the DNS and only the temporary representation of the URL is changed to alter non-standard representations to be compatible with the conventional DNS system. Because the Tan patent system does not change any domain name information, it does not generate an information change function or a command message that identifies an information change function and domain name change information used by the information change function.

Nowhere does the Tan patent describe a text command message that identifies an information change function and includes domain name change information. Nor do the other the prior art of record suggest changing domain name information. Consequently, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5 distinguish over the cited art by reciting "the text string command message comprising a text command specifying an information change function to be performed by the back-end domain manager and further comprising change information to be used by the back-end domain manager in performing the information change function." Claims 6-14 distinguish over the cited art by reciting "the command message identifying an information change function and comprising the domain name change information." Finally, claims 15-21 distinguish over the cited art by reciting "the command message identifying an information change function and comprising the domain name change information."

Neither the Tan patent nor any of the other art of record teach or suggest such a text command message. Consequently, the claims of the present application distinguish over the art of record and are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action indicates that the i-DNS server of the Tan patent system is the front-end domain manager recited by claim 1 and the conventional DNS server is the back-end domain manager recited by claim 1. Applying this correlation to claim 1 shows that claim 1 is not met by the Tan patent. What the Tan patent system does is translate a non-ASCII, non-Unicode URL into a form that can be understood by the conventional DNS server 18. This translation is done by the i-DNS server 16. Thus, according to the Office Action's view, the front-end domain manager (i-DNS server 16) performs any changes to the domain name information that is to be made. But, this is contrary to the text of claim 1, which requires that the front-end domain manager generate a command message and that the back-end domain manager cause the change to be made. As viewed by the Office Action, the back-end domain manager (conventional DNS server 18) does not make any changes to domain name information.

As such, the Tan patent does not meet claim 1's recitation that "the front-end domain manager receiving an information change message from the operator terminal communicating domain name information to be changed by the back-end domain manager." Similar recitations are found in the other independent claims 6 and 15. None of the art of record suggests altering this aspect of the Tan patent. Consequently for this additional reason the claims of the present application distinguish over the art of record and are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los

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Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4600 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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